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Remembrance Day section inside

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BOSHKUNG BREWINGCO.

Former Frost Centre listed for \$1.1 million

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

You can purchase the former Frost Centre for \$1.1 million.

Vacant for a decade, the province, through Crown agency Infrastructure Ontario, has listed the 40-acre property along Highway 35 south of Dorset with CBRE (Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis) Limited Real Estate Brokerage. Located on St. Nora Lake, the property contains some 20 buildings, including a dining hall, dormitories, former educational spaces and various outbuildings.

Initially developed as a training facility for forest rangers, for decades the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre, operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources, served as a location for training, research and environmental and outdoor education. It was closed by the provincial government in 2004, spurring protests and a movement to save the centre. It was revived between 2008 and 2010 as a private environmental education facility known as the Frost Centre Institute, and has been empty since the school's closure.

The 40 acres that are for sale were severed from a larger, 26,000-hectare parcel of Crown land. The Township of Algonquin Highlands has a long-term agreement with the province for the trails system it operates in the area.



Monster Mash

Minden Hills Cultural Centre had some fun characters come out to play on Halloween. From left, Pikachu (Ethan Draker), Super Girl (Kennedy Draker), Batman (Nathan Woodard), Captain America (Nolan Gallagher), and Princess (Haileigh Gallagher). Two time-slots were both fully booked for the Family Halloween Monster Mash, which included croquet, a scavenger hunt, pumpkin rolling, trivia, contests and candy. See more on pages 10 and 11./JENN WATT Staff

MH surplus exceeds \$1 million

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills is now on track to accrue a surplus of more than \$1 million for 2020, councillors heard during an Oct. 29 meeting.

As previously reported, in September, finance director Lorrie Blanchard reported the township had garnered a surplus of some \$920,000 for the year, more than \$760,000 of that surplus coming from general operations, and more than \$150,000 from the township's water and wastewater operations. Some of that surplus came from unspent funds as some of the township's operations were shut down during the first couple of months of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were also delayed equipment purchases, and some \$320,000 worth of wages and benefits for unfilled staff positions

During last week's meeting, Blanchard told

councillors it was likely the surplus would be more than \$1 million by the end of the year.

While some municipalities have seen negative financial implications at their recreational facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, "We haven't had the COVID-19 implications that other recreational facilities have had because we have not been operating," said chief administrative officer Trisha McKibbin. The former S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was demolished in the spring of 2019 and the new

see 2021 BUDGET page 5



MINDEN SUBARU



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Financial challenges due to pandemic plague HHHS

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is facing significant financial challenges due to the extra costs incurred during the pandemic, one of those challenges being related to the Haliburton assessment centre.

The assessment centre, where COVID-19 tests are conducted for people in Haliburton County, was set up in the parking lot of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at the end of March. A trailer is now in place as an assessment centre to be used during the colder months.

"We've had to figure out an alternative for getting us through the winter months, given that we've been using a tent for sort of a drive-through assessment centre model," said Carolyn Plummer, HHHS CEO at a board meeting held virtually on Oct. 29

HHHS has now shifted that operation fully into the trailer that has been on-site at the assessment centre for operation during the winter months, alongside the clinic within the Haliburton Family Medical Centre building for those who are symptomatic or moderately symptomatic to be further assessed when they come in for their testing. HHHS has been paying a rental fee for the tent and trailer since the beginning of April.

"We have certainly had to fund a number of different elements of that centre including the trailer rental, the tent rental up to the present time, and we've provided staffing in-kind and there's been some staffing expenses as well," said Plummer. "So there's some significant costs associated with running that centre and at this point the province has been talking about a funding model that was to be effective as of the first of October. We do not yet have confirmation of funding for our assessment centre, but the funding model that's been shared with us suggests that they will be paying the assessment centre an equivalent of \$38/swab, with a minimum swab number of 200 swabs per week. So if we have under 200 swabs a week we're supposed to be guaranteed the equivalent funding for 200 swabs per week."

"Even with that," Plummer said, "that amount is not going to be sufficient to cover our current operating costs for the centre, and right now we are also experiencing increased costs with the modifications we've had to make to the trailer and some of the changes we've had to make to get us through the winter."

Additionally, the HHHS team is facing a proposed rental payment for the use of the parking lot, which is owned by the Municipality of Dysart et al, as the site for the assessment centre

"So that's going to be adding to our ongoing operating costs at a time when we're really not even certain whether we're going to be able to get sufficient funding from the province to cover those," said Plummer.

Board member Irene Odell questioned the situation.

"...I'm kind of surprised, because this is a service to our community," she said. "We've been very lucky that our numbers are low, and when people do get it they can get testing very quickly. Where would they have to go if this has to shut down because we can't afford to keep it up and running?"

Plummer said to her knowledge there are testing sites in Bancroft, Lindsay, Peterborough and Bracebridge.

"It's quite a travel for folks, especially coming into the winter months," she said.

"How far have you escalated this within Dysart?" asked Odell. "I would think council would want to weigh in on this a bit."

"We have been discussing with the mayor, she's been attending our assessment centre team meetings, and so she's certainly aware of the circumstances that we're facing right now," said Plummer.

"It's disappointing," said Odell.

Plummer would not disclose the amount of rent being proposed, but said the HHHS team was waiting on confirmation from Ontario Health East to see what would be paid and what wouldn't.

After the meeting, she told the *Times* via email: "The rental fees for the trailer and the tent were built into the initial cost estimate we included when we submitted an application to Ontario Health to have an assessment centre in Haliburton; since [we] did receive approval to open our centre, we believe these costs will be covered. In addition to the initial cost estimate, each organization involved with the operation of the assessment centre has been contributing in-kind resources to keep it running and to ensure our community has local access to this critical service. The proposed rental fee for use of the



HHHS board member Irene Odell was backed by fellow board members in saying that a rental fee proposed by the municipality for the HHHS COVID-19 assessment centre was disappointing. / Screenshot

parking lot is a new fee, so we are concerned that it may not be covered. We do appreciate that we have been able to use the parking lot to date without paying rent."

The location of the assessment centre was deemed to be convenient for residents as well as HHHS staff. Plummer said team members had looked at alternative spaces for where the centre might move for the winter months.

"And it became very evident, very quickly, how important it is to have the centre close to the other health services," she said. The family medical centre beside the hospital, and the assessment centre in that area allows for a two-pronged assessment centre approach, Plummer said, with the symptomatic clinic indoors and the rest of the centre happening outside in the trailer enables the team to keep "those two populations apart, but having really easy and quick access to the medical centre and to the emergency department if we need it, if someone shows up with really severe symptoms and is in rough shape."

"It is disappointing because it is such a good service for the community," said Odell, asking how the board might support Plummer and the HHHS team.

Board member David O'Brien supported Odell's comments.

"We are fighting COVID as a community, and we're doing it as a whole community and we're doing it together as a community," he said. "Really, to think you should have to charge us to do that service for our community, absolutely ridiculous, in my mind."

Plummer noted the rental fee proposed includes the cost to cover hydro, which she said she thought was fair.

"Hydro is quite acceptable, I agree, and that's where it should stop," said O'Brien.

A meeting with Ontario Health East is booked this week, Plummer said, to talk about the funding challenges HHHS has been having with the centre under the proposed model.

"They have said they're going to help help centres that can't cover their operating costs, but we just don't know exactly what that means or what it will look like yet," she said. "Hopefully it'll be good news and we won't have to worry about this."

Additional financial update

All Counties

HKPRDHU

Plummer spoke to significant incremental costs HHHS, alongside all other hospitals in the province, have had in response to putting precautions in place due to the pandemic.

"We have been reimbursed for those for the months of March and April, for any of those costs that are reimbursable, but we have only received March and April and nothing since then and the costs are fairly significant, they're over \$350,000 a month being spent just on COVID alone, and so it's really challenging to continue," said Plummer. "It's really creating some cash flow challenges for us. At the moment, we did recently receive that funding reimbursement for March and April and we're OK for now but it won't take long, just a matter of weeks, before we're back in a crunch again. We're really hoping that the government continues with its reimbursements."

Plummer said HHHS has been "actively advocating" for those reimbursements to be made "sooner rather than later," as have other hospitals across the province.

"We're continuing to push on that front," she said.

HHHS has also lost revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, an amount that totals more than \$350,000.

"Unfortunately the government has indicated that lost revenue is not a recoverable expense for COVID-19," said Plummer, noting that the loss is creating a significant deficit in the current year operations and that advocacy work was underway "for funding for these cost pressures."

Grateful for grant, disappointed in amount

While Haliburton Highlands Health Services will receive \$22,000 through the province's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund Exceptional Circumstances Program Grant to help replace air-conditioning units at the Haliburton site, Plummer said HHHS had applied for \$1.5 million worth of upgrades, so though she is grateful for the funding, it falls short of what is needed.

"We had applied for \$1.5 million worth of upgrades that need to happen urgently and received \$22,000 so we were rather disappointed with that outcome to say the least, and again we are advocating for some policy changes to that funding model in order to help organizations such as ours to be able to have a good solid funding plan for keeping our infrastructure up to date," she said.

These items included laundry equipment replacement at both sites, boiler replacement at both sites, lighting upgrades at the Haliburton site and ventilation duct replacement at the Minden site, according to Plummer's report.

"We have found a way to proceed with some of those more urgent issues that need addressing, so we are continuing ahead despite the lack of funding and we're continuing to advocate and hopefully we'll get those expenses covered," she said.

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Ha	Haliburton (HAL)		artha Lakes (CKL)	Northumbe	erland (NTH) - F	HKPRDHU	
	co	VID-19 Cont	acts, Cases, Ho	spitalizations,	and Deaths by	County	
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High- Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalization s (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	1	19	4	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	0	166	4	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	3	46	6	0	3	1	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU

Sees Not Resolved Resolved Risk Contacts Probable Cases (Total to date) Confirmed Cases Probable Cases

4 231 14 0 15 20 13

One new confirmed case of COVID-19 as well as four current high-risk contacts were reported in Haliburton County by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit on Nov.2, with no turtner upaates to case counts noted on Nov. 3. Previously, 19 cases reported in Haliburton County have been listed as resolved. A new confirmed case was also reported in Northumberland this week./Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



Haliburton County councillors discuss increased billing from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit during an Oct. 28 online meeting. /Screenshot

County reluctantly pays health unit bill

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors agreed, with some degree of frustration, to pay the county's 2020 requisition to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, a number of councillors calling the increased bill "downloading by stealth" by the provincial government.

In late 2019, county councillors received correspondence from the health unit indicating that due to changes in the funding formula from the provincial government, it was facing financial challenges and was therefore increasing the levies required from each of the municipal jurisdictions it serves - Haliburton County, Northumberland County, and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

For Haliburton County, its bill had increased by approximately \$42,000, from about \$421,000 to about \$463,000 for the year. County councillors had taken issue with the increase, calling it downloading by the province, and resolving the county would sustain funding at 2019 levels.

"County council had some concerns and provided direction to keep the levy at the same level as 2019," county chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said during an Oct. 27 meeting of council, "and they asked for a report, you asked for a report, detailing mandatory and discretionary services [provided by the health unit]. We did receive an information package, there was no real explanation as to the services they provide, but they did state they provide no discretionary services.'

County councillors continued to advocate against the

change in the past year, including through conversations with provincial reps and with Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, who is a retired paramedic chief for the county, taking the county's concerns to a regional public health modernization consultation session in Peterborough.

With the county technically in arrears with the health unit, county council agreed to pay the full bill for 2020 during an Oct. 28 meeting, but members continued to express concern about billing from the health unit. A letter received by Rutter from the health unit earlier this month indicated the county could expect a \$46,000 increase for 2021, and an increase of more than \$50,000 for 2022.

"Barring any major changes that the province makes, I think we have some challenges ahead with this levy," Rutter told councillors.

"I've got to say that this is unfortunate," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen.

"It's a bit similar in my mind to OPP," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. "We have things that we pay for, that we're responsible to taxpayers, but we either have very limited to no influence on decisions . . . This continues to challenge me that we pay for things that we have no direct supervision or control over."

"To me this continues to me to be, what Brent was saying, more or less downloading by stealth," Danielsen said.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, the county's rep on the health unit board, told her colleagues she continues to express the county's concerns at the board table.

In a recorded vote, Danielsen voted against approving the increased funding.

Minden Hills man charged in Taser robberies

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The OPP have charged a 46-year-old Minden Hills man with a number of offences following robberies in Coboconk and Orillia carried out with a Taser.

On Sunday, Oct. 25 at approximately 8 a.m. OPP were called to Coboconk where a person at an ATM was approached by a man brandishing a conducted energy weapon and demanding cash. The victim, who was not injured, handed over \$300 and the suspect fled by foot.

A similar incident took place around 6 a.m. the next morning, Monday, Oct. 26 in Orillia, when a person using a drivethrough ATM was approached by a man carrying a Taser and demanding cash. In that case, according to the OPP, the victim drove away, leaving their card in the machine. The suspect then tried, unsuccessfully, to withdraw cash.

In both cases, the suspect was described as being a man in his 30s or 40s, about 5'7", dressed in black clothing.

On Friday, Oct. 30, the OPP in conjunction with York Regional Police identified a suspect, arresting him in the Township of Ramara. He has been charged with robbery with a weapon; possession of a weapon for dangerous purposes; and unauthorized use of a weapon. Police believe the suspect was also involved in two attempted robberies at convenience stores in Gravenhurst on the morning of Oct. 26.

Investigations are ongoing, and anyone with any information is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

The suspect is scheduled to appear in court in Orillia on





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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted

> The schedule of upcoming meetings are: November 12 - Committee of the Whole Meeting

> > November 26 - Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www. mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www. mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS WEEK

The week beginning on November 1 in each year is proclaimed as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week.

As winter approaches, the impetus to begin using gas fired appliances, such as fireplaces, that can produce lethal carbon monoxide increases. Appliances that are rarely used over the summer months may develop leaks or blockages and ause carbon monoxide to accumulate inside the home. Therefore, it is important to inspect appliances and carbon monoxide detectors when the colder temperatures begin.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Tips

Testing and Replacing Landlords are responsible for installing and maintaining carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in their rental units Landlords are required to test CO alarms in rental units annually and when the battery is replaced, changes are made to the electric circuit or a change of tenancy occurs.
It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with CO alarms in any way Test CO alarms every month by pressing the test button. Replace batteries every year. Replace CO

alarms according to manufacturer's instructions.

Know the Sound of the CO Alarm: Your CO alarm sounds different than your smoke alarm. Test both alarms monthly and make sure everyone in your home knows the difference between the two alarm sounds

Know the difference between the CO alarms low-battery warning, end of life warning and manufacturer's instructions.

What to do if the CO Alarm Sounds: Exposure to CO can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea and dizziness, as well as confusion, drowsiness, loss of consciousness and death. If your CO alarm consciousness and death. It your CO alarm sounds, and you or other occupants suffer from symptoms of CO poisoning, get everyone out of the home immediately. Then call 9-1-1 or your local emergency services number from outside the building. If your CO alarm sounds, and no one is suffering from symptoms of CO poisoning, check to see if the battery needs replacing, or the alarm has reached its "end-of-life" before calling 9-1-1.

MAIL COLLECTION PROTOCOLS

Due to COVID-19 we have updated our procedures for processing incoming mail. Mail will be collected daily from the Post Office and our Drop Box and held for a three (3) day period prior to opening and distribution. Mail that has legislative requirements is being monitored by Staff.

you are mailing an item that is time sensitive it is suggested that you email a copy to the appropriate Staff Member or our general email account at admin@mindenhills.ca.

We wish to thank you for your patience as we strive to keep our Team Members, their families and Members of the Public safe and healthy.

<u>AMMUNITION IS NOT RECYCLABLE</u>

Please place spent ammunition casings in the garbage. If you have unspent ammunition that you wish to dispose of, please contact the OPP Do not place spent or unspent ammunition in the Blue Box.

HHHS prepares for province's second wave

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

While confirmed cases of COVID-19 have remained low in Haliburton County, with 19 cases having been reported resolved since the pandemic was declared in March, Haliburton Highlands Healthcare Services teams have been working on pandemic response strategies on a daily basis, and planning for potential increases in community prevalence, surges and outbreaks as record numbers of infection are announced daily, according to a report from HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer, which she presented at a board meeting held virtually on Oct. 29.

"We're right in the middle of what seems to be a growing second wave, although hopefully things are levelling off, we have been seeing record-high numbers of new COVID cases across the province, as everyone I'm sure is aware, over the past few days," said Plummer.

As the second wave of the pandemic in Ontario sees rising cases of COVID-19 across the province, HHHS has several increasing concerns.

"The first being hospital capacity, with the increasing number of hospitalizations related to COVID over the last few days, and weeks, we're starting to see some hospital capacity issues across the province and a little bit regionally, but not in crisis situation quite yet here. We've also been seeing increases in ICU admissions across the province. This is happening particularly in the hospitals in the hotspot areas, but it does have the potential to have a ripple effect out to some of the more regional hospitals, and the ripple effects even



HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer shared with the board challenges the corporation is facing regarding the second wave of COVID-19 during their meeting Oct. 29. / Screenshot

to our hospitals. So we are continuing to monitor the situation every day and plan for potential surges in patient volumes as well as the potential for an increase in our community prevalence of cases here, and the effect that might have on our hospital services as well as our staff and our ability to staff the hospital."

Plummer said one of the concerns was the possibility that, as hospitals were dealing with outbreaks in several hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area as well as the potential for flu season causing surges in hospital capacity, elective surgeries and other procedures might be paused again as they had been earlier in the first part of the pandemic.

"Hopefully that won't happen but it's certainly a risk as we see a rise in those hospital capacity numbers," she said.

The other major concern for HHHS is related to the growing number of COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

"We have seen an increase in the number of long-term care homes provincially that have gone into outbreak, most of them in the hotspot areas, but still very concerning that that is still happening," said Plummer. "We've been of course maintaining strict vigilance with all of the precautions we've put into place to try to ensure we keep folks as safe as we can possibly keep them here at HHHS. But it is a concern for us."

In her report, Plummer noted the "province is continuing to rely on hospitals to provide Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) support for LTC homes, and hospitals are continuing to provide staffing and other resources to homes that are experiencing shortages as a result of outbreaks."

'One of the biggest concerns we have in relation to that is that some of the hotspot areas, when they get into staffing crisis, are relying on hospitals to provide staffing for long-term care homes," Plummer said during the board meeting. "At least one of our regional partner hospitals has had to send staff out to a couple of the LTC homes in hotspot areas to help with their staffing crises. As we see our regional partners do that, that raises concerns about their ability to help out at our organization if we were to run into a staffing crisis. Again, we're watching that very closely. Our partners are aware of our situation as a small hospital. We have had great success recruiting people over the last several months however we are still in a situation where it wouldn't take much for us to move into a staffing crisis if we were to see an outbreak locally.

She noted that HHHS teams were working on planning strategy and reprising plans, adding that it "seems like pretty much every day there's a revision to our plans."

Long-term care facilities remain COVID-free

HHHS staff continues to closely monitor the second wave of COVID-19 and evaluate the various safety measures put in place to keep long-term care residents, staff and visitors safe

"We continue to have ongoing concerns about the rising number of long-term care home outbreaks in the province, and the possibility of an outbreak locally," said Plummer in her report. "If an outbreak was to occur, our rural location puts us in a vulnerable position due to our limited staff availability and limited external resources upon which to rely for help."

Locally, HHHS manages Hyland Crest in Minden, and Highland Wood in Haliburton.

"The concerns that we have around what we're seeing in the province with the increased cases in long-term care and the increased number of outbreaks has prompted us to tighten up some of the visiting policies that we had put into place when the province opened visiting back up to long-term care [facilities]," said Plummer. "We have put a few additional restrictions in, just knowing that, because of our small size and our small number of staff, and the challenge of not really having easy access to back-up staffing

given the current situation regionally, we have tightened up some of the restrictions."

With the exception of certain compassionate care situations and essential caregiver visiting, all indoor visits will be restricted to a designated space outside of each LTC home, near the main entrance to each facility, reads the CEO report. Residents may have up to two visitors at a time in the designated area; visitors must attest to having a negative COVID-19 swab within the past 14 days, and they must wear a surgical mask provided by the home during their visit. Alternative methods of visiting via Skype and FaceTime are available.

Essential caregivers are still permitted to enter the home, Plummer said, but they're restricted to visits with their loved one inside of the resident's room and not out in the common areas.

One of the biggest risks identified was residents leaving the home's property for a short stay or temporary absence, reads Plummer's report. Requests for these absences must be submitted and approved by the home. Residents taking short-term absences for social and other reasons that don't include an overnight stay, must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or self-isolate, while those absent for one or more nights must be actively screened and self-isolate for 14 days. Residents who leave for medical reasons do not require testing or self-isolation upon their return, with additional steps for the facility to follow upon their return if the resident is admitted to hospital. Individuals accompanying residents are instructed to comply with provincial guidelines regarding social circles, hygiene and PPE, but the ministry does not currently require them to attest to having a negative COVID-19 swab within the past 14 days.

"We are committed to keeping our residents safe, and are actively advocating our concerns to the Ministry of Long Term Care," said Plummer in her report. "In order to protect our vulnerable residents, even before a large prevalence of COVID-19 is seen in our community, we have been working closely with the Ministry and with Public Health, and are taking proactive actions to reduce the risk of our residents and staff contracting COVID-19."

Similar to other long-term care facilities throughout the province, HHHS staff are tested for COVID-19 every two weeks.

Haliburton County COVID-19 cases holding steady

Plummer told the board there had been "a little bit of a spike," over the month since the last meeting, with an additional four cases added in the county.

"Percentage wise it's a bit of an increase but number wise the cases here do remain low," she said.

Her report noted the importance of remaining vigilant in part due to the concerns faced by the HHHS teams.

"All of what's going on in the rest of the province is a huge reminder for everyone I think that, exhausted as we all may be and as frustrated as we all may be, with all of the precautions and the way that life has changed, we do still need to maintain that vigilance in order to get through," she told board members. "Lots of people talk about this being like a marathon, we were quick out of the gate at the beginning but we've reached that wall part-way through the marathon where we're getting tired, and we have to work through that tiredness and keep on going to reach the finish line, and I think that's a good metaphor for how things feel right now."

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2021 budget to include manageable projects

from page 1

Minden Hills arena, which is substantially completed, has yet to open. Once the facility is operational, McKibbin noted the township will have to take into consideration the budget challenges that other municipalities have been experiencing with regard to recreational facilities. Those challenges stem from the fact that while expenditures remain the same as staff still have be paid to maintain and operate recreational facilities, revenues are typically down since fewer people are permitted into facilities at one time amid COVID-19 restrictions.

Councillor Bob Carter noted that in the spring, council had decided there were a number of capital works projects it wanted to complete in 2020, mostly roads and bridge work, and had agreed it would debenture some of those project costs. Carter wondered that given the size of the anticipated surplus, how much of it could be used to offset the size of the debenture.

Blanchard said a report on that issue would be coming to councillors in November.

McKibbin said that only projects that can be realistically completed in 2021 should be included in the upcoming year's budget.

"Having reviewed the forecast, I think this is crucial, as we build the 2021 budget, that we take a look at what projects were not complete in 2020 and ensure that in the 2021 budget, what is being put in the budget is realistic as to what can be completed, so that it's not just a complete rollover and then an add of other projects, because we don't want to be in the same situation next year as well," McKibbin said.

The township also accrued a large surplus of some \$900,000 for 2019, those funds sitting in its capital reserves.

New community services director starts with Minden Hills

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during an Oct. 29 meeting of Minden Hills council.

The Township of Minden Hills' new community services director, Craig Belfry, was scheduled to start work with the township on Monday, Nov. 2. Belfry was most recently facilities co-ordinator for the Township of Brock, and previously manager of recreation, parks and properties for the Township of Springwater, as well as recreation manager for the Township of Scugog. Belfry replaces former community services director Mark Coleman, who resigned from the township in January to take a similar position with the Municipality of Brockton.

MH forgoes additional COVID relief funding

The township will not apply for additional COVID-19 relief funding from the provincial government. During the first phase of provincial pandemic relief funding to municipalities during the summer, Minden Hills received just more than \$400,000 to help cover COVID-19-related costs. A staff report showed that so far, the township has spent about \$100,000 of that money and chief administrative officer Trisha McKibbin indicated the \$400,000 the township had received should be sufficient in covering any further pandemic-related costs that may come up.

It seemed unlikely the township would receive any funding from Phase 2 of what is being called the province's Safe Restart program, given a surplus in excess of \$1 million it is



I think the big flag is going to be the surplus.

— FINANCE DIRECTOR LORRIE BLANCHARD



expected to accrue for 2020.

"There was a very specific question about surpluses for 2020," said finance director Lorrie Blanchard of the funding application.

This is highly likely to be a fruitless enterprise," said Mayor Brent Devolin.

"I think probably the big flag is going to be the surplus," Blanchard said.

Legion will mark Remembrance Day

Council approved a road closure of the section of Bobycaygeon Road near the Minden cenotaph on the morning of Nov. 11 for a Remembrance Day ceremony. However, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a scaled-down version of the usual annual ceremony will include only members of the Minden Legion's executive.



















INOTHERWORDS

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Monster mash

HE HALLOWEEN celebration at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre this past weekend was great, and not just because I won a lollipop for decimating my sister and brother-in-law in a double pumpkin roll race. Thank you.

Normally, the Minden Hills family Halloween party is an evening event with dancing

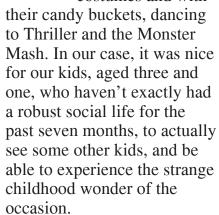
and games at a spookily decorated community centre. This year, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the township's Halloween festivities were done differently.

An afternoon outing, families could choose between two time-slots – 1 to 2:30 p.m. or 3 to 4:30 p.m. – with registration required ahead of time to keep attendance numbers at an acceptable level. The grounds at the Minden Hills Museum, festooned with cobwebs, bats and gravestones – the fake variety, obviously – provided an outdoor setting where families could interact while keeping their distance from one another. There was a scavenger hunt, trivia game, pumpkin roll, croquet, a jack o'lantern competition, and at the conclusion, a

costume contest with some socially distanced dancing. Particularly for parents of very young children, the afternoon event allows you to get your Halloweening in early in the day if you so choose, and the township should continue with the event past the pandemic.

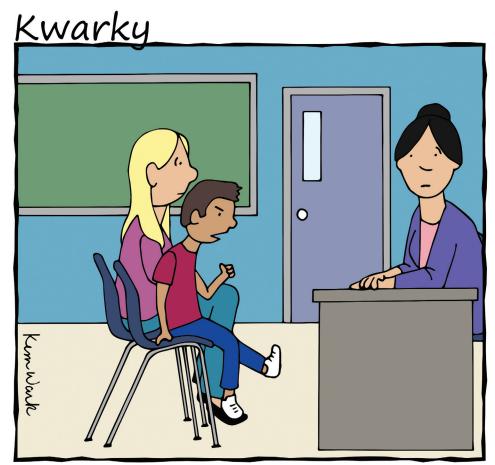
The celebration was also great for the sense

of normalcy it provided, however brief. 2020 has been a year far scarier than any Halloween display, and it was nice to be out at a community event, to see kids in their costumes and with



Sure, everyone was wearing face masks and keeping their distance from one another, but it was still Halloween.

Thanks to township staff and volunteers for their work on what should become a new tradition.



"Tell her my mistakes; she does my homework."

It's all uphill

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

F I WERE to give one piece of advice to a new deer hunter who is trailing a mortally wounded deer he or she has just shot or arrowed, I would say, forget the blood trail. Just find the lowest, most difficult, spot of ground and look there. That's where your dead deer will be – provided the lowest spot of ground is at the base of the steep hill your vehicle is on the far side of.

To be clear, this is not even remotely good advice or even a hard and fast rule of what the species does when mortally wounded. It's just what

they do to me.

You see, every mortally wounded deer I have ever recovered has forced me to drag it uphill. Sometimes more than once.

If you think I'm exaggerating, consider this. I once had to drag a deer uphill in the middle of Saskatchewan. That basically meant the deer had to

go out of its way to find a patch of low ground in the middle of the prairie, just so I would have to drag it uphill.

Frankly, I thought that was a bit spiteful.

Worse still, I once dropped a deer on a hilltop on level ground that led to where my vehicle was parked. The buck died instantly on the spot – and then rolled down a nearby slope to the base of the hill – in slow motion.

I have tried outsmarting deer by hunting the lowest ground in the area. But they still find a way to make me drag them uphill. I can't explain it.

Also, for some reason when they roll

downhill, there is not a tree in the way, but when you drag them uphill, the path is suddenly blocked by tree trunks, thickets, huge boulders and blow downs.

I'm guessing this isn't a coincidence. Honestly, I think the deer have it out for me. Call me paranoid but I suspect that when they meet at their annual general meeting prior to the hunting season an old doe will, at one point, say, "Item two on the agenda: What about Galea?"

That's when a sage old buck will answer, "I suggest we use the standard pro-

tocol. If he shoots or arrows you and you have any life left in you at all, run as fast as you can, straight downhill away from where his vehicle is parked. And, as always, if you are about to die immediately, find a way to roll down the steepest slope you can. His back can't hold out forever..."

Look, I understand this is not the kind of column that a non-hunter will enjoy – after

all it deals with pre-death experiences and pain and suffering. But, don't worry. My back usually heals up after a week or so.

And yes, I wouldn't have back pains if I just bought myself an ATV. But I also know that the minute I buy myself an ATV, the deer would change their protocol and die in downhill places where ATVs can't go. So, I would still have to drag the deer uphill to the ATV.

My only real option, as I get older, is to mentor a young hunter with a strong back or start hunting in areas where the land is so flat that this is no longer an issue. But I don't hold out hope.

Not as long as sinkholes exist.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

INOTHERWORDS

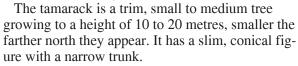
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Trees that say when autumn is done

TILL SIX WEEKS to go before the calendar says that autumn is over. But the calendar doesn't have to click over to Dec. 21 to tell me that. Tamaracks, non-conformists in our northern forests, tell me when fall is done. When their soft green needles turn golden yellow, then light brown, I know that the last, tough resistors to winter have accepted that

Also known as larch, the tamarack is the toughest tree in the forest, in my humble opinion. Some might vote for the oak, but oaks grow tall and heavy

and often lean toward the sun, leaving them susceptible to wind damage.



The most unusual thing about tamaracks is that they are both deciduous - broad-leaf trees that shed their leaves annually – and coniferous, commonly

called evergreens. The tamarack is an evergreen, except when it's not. It is not late in the fall when its needles turn co-

lour and fall, leaving the tree dark grey and barren, in sharp contrast to its neighbouring evergreens.

JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Some other evergreens do drop their needles, but gradually and not so noticeably. White pine, for instance, shed some needles every two or three years, while spruce do it every three to five years.

Although it is different – an oddball among evergreens – the tamarack lives free of the harassment humans often suffer if they tend to be different. It is not mocked or called ugly names. It is not prohibited from occupying spaces or doing things that other evergreens do.

Tamarack is classified as a softwood, as other evergreens are, but it is probably the hardest, and most useful, of the softwoods. It is strong and longlasting, yet flexible in thin strips.

The Indigenous people were quick to figure that out, using flexible but durable tamarack strips for snowshoe frames. They also used tamarack wood, roots and twigs in building canoes and toboggans.

The Cree used tamarack twigs in making goose decoys, a practice that has become an art form.

The tree also was an important source of medicine for Indigenous people. They used its inner and outer bark to treat everything from wounds, frostbite and hemorrhoids to colds, arthritis and various aches and pains.

They passed all that knowledge along to European settlers who made significant use of the rot-resistant wood. The newcomers used tamarack poles as fence posts, railroad ties and to build corduroy roads.

It also was used in horse stables because it resisted abrasion and kicking damage.

It never was, and still isn't, a major commercial timber species. It is harvested mainly as pulpwood, which is used to make paper, cardboard and various types of fibreboard. It also is used for poles, posts and general rough lumber.

Tamaracks also are well used by wildlife. Birds love the small seeds found inside the tree's cones. So do squirrels and mice. Porcupines love the bark.

Tamaracks are not easily distinguishable during the summer. They hang out with black spruce and other evergreens and you have to get close enough to see their narrow trunks and the slender and short needles that grow in soft clusters of 15 to 20.

They are more identifiable, if you look closely, in early spring. Bright new needles appear in blue-green clusters that deepen in colour as summer progresses. The tamaracks also provide other spring beauty when their tiny, egg-shaped cones, retained throughout the winter, appear yellow and reddish or maroon.

But the tamaracks really come into their own in autumn, offering late season elegance when other leaves have fallen or have turned a wrinkled brown. They provide us a last touch of nature's beauty in a bleakness about to be overcome by winter's whiteness.

That golden elegance has been fading fast in the last few days. But it's been wonderful to have as a finale to what has been a pretty fine year for fall letters to the editor

Concern over province's wetland decision

The following is an open letter to MPP Laurie Scott, submitted to the Minden Times.

I recently read the article ["Province greenlights controversial Pickering development on protected wetland using special order", CBC News online Oct. 30, 2020] quoted here: "The 57-acre wetland, located just south of Highway 401 near Pickering's border with Ajax, is part of the lower Duffin's Creek wetland complex, which was deemed 'provincially significant' back in 2005 — a designation that is supposed to protect it from development or alteration. But on Friday, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs announced that a minister's zoning order, or MZO, was being issued for the site, allowing

a distribution centre and production facility to be built there.'

I would like to know how this decision could set a precedent for overruling other designated significant wetlands. I am writing as a concerned

Wetlands are an integral part of our water and ecosystems. Why spend money on land planning and research when it can all be overruled? As a board member with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust who is in the midst of research on wetlands mapping this is discouraging news. Please clarify this decision.

> Joan Duhaime **Haliburton County**

Control

NE DEFINITION of the word control is "to have power over." Here's a little secret for you ... as living beings on this planet we have very little control over anything. That is one of the biggest lessons we can take from the pandemic we are all living through. Now that we're heading into our ninth month of restrictions (using the beginning of March

as a start date) this is really feeling like a hurry up and wait scenario. The first question is what are we waiting for? The second question is why are we waiting?

This is what I know:

- 1. There is a contagious virus that is affecting the entire world.
- 2. I don't have the virus at the
- 3. I have no control over how it will affect me if I do get it.

4. The only thing I really have control over are the choices I make.

That's it, that's all I know at this moment. The last point is the most important of the four when it comes to my overall level of contentment during any challenging time that I may live through.

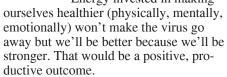
When there are challenges facing us some of us try to artificially control situations. What I mean by that is we will try telling someone else what to do. Or we might try making deals with ourselves. I do that. If I get this done then I will reward myself with this treat. Too many

times I've just gone to the treat and felt horrible after. Talk about losing control.

The answer lies in establishing awareness of what is truly happening. As an example, let's say there's a bad internet connection. You've tried all the tricks that have worked before and it's not helping the situation. There's a choice at that moment. You either keep pounding away at

> the problem or decide to use the time for something else that is actually productive.

That's where we are now as time marches on and the virus is staying put. Our choice is to fret about it or to adapt to it. The energy put into the thoughts around wanting it to go away are not making a difference. We don't have any power over COVID-19. Energy invested in making



Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG Practical Fitness

Book of the Month - November

Since coming home to Spirit Bear Point First Nation, Hazel Ellis has been dreaming of an old crow. He tells her he's here to help her, save her. From what, exactly? Sure, her dad's been dead for almost two years and she hasn't quite reconciled that grief, but is that worth the time of an Algonquin demigod? own sadness and doubt. The quarry that's been lying unsul-

Soon Hazel learns that there's more at play than just her lied for over a century on her father's property is stirring the old magic that crosses the boundaries between this world and the next. With the aid of Nanabush: trickster, shapeshifter, Hazel must unravel a web of deceit that, if left untouched, could destroy her family and her home on both sides of the Medicine Wheel.

Check out Algonquin Anishinaabe author Karen McBride's brilliant debut novel, Crow Winter, (an Evergreen nominee!) from Haliburton County Public Library today.

First 'octomester' shows strong achievement rate for students

by JENN WATT

Editor

Most secondary school students enrolled in classes in Trillium Lakelands District School Board received class credits at the end of their first "octoblock" or "octomester" the schedule employed this year where students take only one class at a time, studying the subject for the full school day.

Katherine MacIver, superintendent of learning, reported to the board of trustees on Tuesday, Oct. 27 that the credit accumulation rate in the first octoblock was 98 per cent.

We had 4,313 credits and only 86 of those credits were not awarded," she told the trustees.

Of those who completed their credits, 58 per cent received marks between 80 to 100 per cent; one-fifth of students received grades between 70 and 79 per cent.

The semester has been broken up into octomesters of 22 days each to make it easier to keep students with their cohorts and to limit the amount of mixing that happens in schools something that could lessen the risk of coronavirus spread.

To give trustees a sense of how the new system worked, a few teachers were invited to present on what the first month and a half back at school was like.

they had done in tackling the challenges this fall.

"There is no doubt that the pandemic has set us back in time and has caused a lot of changes in our personal and our work experiences," Williams said. "... there are always silver linings in every struggle that we overcome."

Teachers from BMLSS and Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute described an octomester that both allowed for intense study, and also one that could be difficult to plan for. It didn't seem there was enough time to teach everything in the curriculum before Oct. 16 and if a student was absent, it meant they were very far behind their peers. On the other hand, the concentrated time often meant less stopping and starting, using time more efficiently.

Video recordings of student feedback was also played for

"I like during the octomester we focused on one subject for 22 days rather than having to go through and do four subjects for the whole semester. It really helps focus on a single thing and you get a lot more work done in that time," one student

"I just feel like there's a lot more pressure put on students because there is no time for mistakes, like you have to get everything done within this time period," another said.

Fewer opportunities to socialize were available, one student said, and different cohorts have different lunch breaks.

RF/MAX

PROFESSI^ONALS

socialize," the student said.

Another student said he wished there were more mask breaks during the day. He said that Google Classroom online had worked well when he had to stay home sick (the policy is that students exhibiting a set list of symptoms, which can also indicate a cold or flu, must stay home until they are tested for

One student reported that he anticipated his fellow students breaking rules and not observing physical distancing recommendations, but he was pleasantly surprised to find that students were doing what was asked of them.

Asked by trustees about truancy and misbehaviour, those presenting said they hadn't seen much.

Feed All Four fund in the works

Noting the pandemic has presented financial hardship for many families within the school board, director of education Wes Hahn told the trustees about a Feed All Four fundraising campaign in the works.

Feed All Four, a concept created by TLDSB, is a blend of the Indigenous medicine wheel and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, emphasizing the importance of "feeding" the mind, body, spirit and emotions to create a sense of well being and happiness.

'What we've done is we've decided to put together an educational community collaborative effort through a Feed All Four fund that will look at really going out to our educational community for donations ... that can be used to support our community," Hahn said.

Employees at TLDSB will be asked to donate funds during the six-to-eight-week campaign and administrators will identify families in need.



Katherine McIver, superintendent of learning for Trillium Lakelands District School Board, speaks at the board of trustees meeting on Oct. 27. McIver said that outcomes had been good for the first octomester of the year. /Screenshot from online stream of meeting



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Warden election process goes virtual

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

Like council meetings themselves, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the election of the Haliburton County warden for 2021 will take place virtually.

Each year, the eight members of county council, who are the mayors and deputy mayors of each of the county's lower-tier, vote from among themselves who will serve as county warden - the head of county council - for the upcoming year. Traditionally, this process takes place during an inaugural meeting in December.

Since the spring, Haliburton County council, along with the councils of its four lowertier townships, has been holding meetings virtually, with members participating remotely via online conferencing app Zoom, proceedings broadcast to the public on YouTube.

During an Oct. 28 meeting, chief administrative officer Mike Rutter presented a report with options on how county council would like to proceed with the election of the 2021 warden amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Normally, nominations are done with in-

terested councillors filling out nomination forms, those forms being signed by a mover and seconder. Since it won't be possible to obtain signatures from movers and seconders as council continues to meet remotely, nomination forms and emails of support are to be sent to Rutter by Nov. 13. Emails with nomination forms were being sent to members of council following last week's meeting.

Should an election be required – often the warden position is acclaimed for the year -Rutter's report offered two options. One was a virtual election that could take place either during the inaugural meeting, or with members submitting virtual ballots once they have received them any time before the inaugural. The second was a more traditional process, where staff would arrange times to meet councillors who would place paper ballots in a box, with that box to be opened during the inaugural meeting.

Ultimately councillors decided to vote virtually, but prior to the meeting, lest any technical glitches interrupt the process. Online council meetings have frequently been subject to internet connectivity problems.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen has served as warden for the past two years.



Bridge work completed thanks to grant

Redecking and new railings for the Peter Overington Bridge over the Beech River (TOP Trail "B") was completed thanks to an Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs infrastructure grant and significant help from the Township of Algonquin Highlands. Total is \$55,000. Two seasons ago the foundation and cribbing was upgraded at a cost of \$58,000, for a total of \$113,000. This two-phase restoration has been a long ride for the HCSA: at least five years beginning to end. The past two winters they had got by with plywood patching. Thanks goes out to The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and Algonquin Highlands Township for their support. Without it this repair would not be rideable. In the summer, hikers enjoy this Haliburton County Snowmobile Association landmark as part of Algonquin Highlands Township's trails network. The 105-foot bridge is named in memory of HCSA president and former OFSC vice president Peter Overington. His passion shaped what the HCSA is today. / Submitted by the HCSA



Before (right) and after (left) work done on the Overington bridge. /Photo submitted

New medical officer of health to begin April 2021

Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, was scheduled to retire in June of 2020 – then the coronavirus pandemic hit, delaying her departure.

Last week, the health unit announced that Noseworthy's last day would be Dec. 11, 2020 and that Dr. Natalie Bocking would be taking over starting in April 2021. In the interim, Dr. Ian Gemmill, former medical officer of health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health, will be filling the position.

Bocking has worked for the last four years as a public health physician at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. She received her medical doctorate from McMaster University and is a public health and preventative medicine specialist. During her time in northern Ontario, she was also a locum family physician. She and her family now live in City of Kawartha Lakes.

"She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing public health programs and services in rural areas of the province and has most recently worked with northern First Nations communities to provide public health services," Doug Elmslie, chair of the board of HKPR District Health Unit, said.

He thanked Noseworthy for her time with the health unit. "Dr. Noseworthy has guided this health unit through some challenging times and we wish her all the best for her well-deserved retirement," he said. "Dr. Noseworthy has worked tirelessly to help provide quality public health programs and services to the residents in our communities and I know Dr. Bocking will do an excellent job in carrying on that work."

Staff



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, there will not be an official public service at the County Cairn on Bobcaygeon Rd.

The Legion Colour Party and Executive will conduct the Act of Remembrance at 11:00 am and the wreath laying ceremony will not take place.

Please note we are unable to host the usual social gathering at the branch.



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- Entrepreneurs who need support to build their business
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WHERE IS IT?

49 MAPLE AVENUE, HALIBURTON. STREET LEVEL

WHEN DOES IT OPEN?

Wednesday November 4, @8:00AM (Lunch is On Us is from 11:30 - 2)

HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?

WITH YOUR HELP!

Please donate to the 2020 gifts from the heart campaign: www.sirch.on.ca/gifts





Minden delights and frights at Halloween event

by SUE TIFFIN Times Staff

Minden's community centre was quiet for Halloween this year, with the much-loved annual Family Halloween Party usually held indoors cancelled due to pandemic restrictions, but celebrations shifted outdoors, over to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, where two sessions of Halloween fun events were sold out.

Hosted by the township of Minden Hills and the cultural centre, 140 pre-registered costume-clad attendees visited the museum grounds on Oct. 31 in appointed times during one of two hour-and-a-half long sessions. Activity stations offered trivia, a scavenger hunt, croquet, badminton and the great pump-

"There is always some doubt if the community will buy into something new and different and when it's held outdoors the weather is always another concern," said Elisha Weiss, community development co-ordinator for the Township of Minden Hills. "Luckily we had sunshine and above-freezing temperatures and the families that came out to support this initiative all seemed to be in good spirits and were embracing the Halloween fun, so overall I would say it was a good success!"

Families were asked to bring a carved pumpkin to enter a pumpkin contest, and could also participate in a costume contest, but regardless, everyone walked away with a grab bag of candy and goodies at the end.



Isaac Walker, 2, came to the Halloween party dressed as Batman, ready to fight crime. /JENN WATT Staff



Summer Truax, 4, knocks the croquet ball toward the wicket at the Family Halloween Monster Mash at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Oct. 31.



The Incredible Hulk makes his way through a culvert during the Halloween bash at the cultural centre.

Shannon Quigley, left, describes the rules of the ghoulish scavenger hunt to three trick-ortreaters.



A police officer, doctor, and fairy follow the clues left around the Minden Hills Cultural Centre grounds for the Halloween scavenger hunt.





A bundled unicorn gave a bony dog a scratch under the chin at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Halloween event on Oct. 31. /Submitted



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Ontario says it will fund four hours of daily care for long-term care patients

by LEN GILLIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ontario premier Doug Ford has acted on one of the key recommendations made by the Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission — that the province will mandate having four hours of daily care per patient in long-term care homes.

Aside from being a recommendation by the commission, the idea was initially tabled in the Ontario legislature in 2016 by Nickel Belt MPP and Ontario NDP Health Critic France Gélinas as an amendment to the Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Act (2007).

It was just last week that second reading of Bill 13, the Time to Care Act amendment was approved in the Ontario legislature with 80 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes. Gélinas said it was an important step forward.

"Residents, family members, caregivers and staff in LTCs have been calling for a minimum standard of care since the PC Government eliminated it in 2003," Gélinas

"Over 100,000 Ontarians have signed petitions in support of a daily minimum standard of care; petitions collected by family councils, church groups and PSWs, many of them from Nickel Belt. It is far past time residents received the care they need."

On Monday, the premier made the recommendation official, and said funding for the new initiative will be part of the new budget forward." that will be introduced later this week to provide the millions of dollars needed to hire and train new workers acros s the province.

"COVID-19 has impacted every area of our lives," said Ford. "This virus has shone a light, has shone a spotlight on our broken long-term care system.'

Ford said his government inherited a system that suffered deeply from decades of underinvestment and neglect by the Liberals. He said he promised to fix the broken system and to give Ontario residents the care and dignity they deserve.

"We didn't create this mess, but I can tell you we're going to fix it," said Ford.

He said he appointed the COVID-19 longterm care commission in July. The commission delivered several interim recommendations last week.

"We are wasting no time in starting to act on one of those key recommendations immediately," said Ford.

"In the upcoming 2020 Ontario budget we will be increasing average daily direct care in our homes to four hours a day.

"To our residents and to their families and caregivers, four hours a day will make a world of difference.

"Across the sector that means tens of thousands of additional hours of care for our residents. This is the gold standard in the long-term care sector and we won't settle for anything less. This is a monumental step

Ford said it will mean hiring "thousands and thousands" of new support staff.

"We know such an important change will take time to recruit and train the necessary

staff but we are starting that work in earnest right now. It is long overdue, but today we are making it right," he said.

Sudbury.com



The Invasive Species Centre's Early Detection and Rapid Response Network is hosting a contest to encourage residents of Ontario to get out and scrape off EGM egg masses from their trees./ Submitted by the Invasive Species Centre

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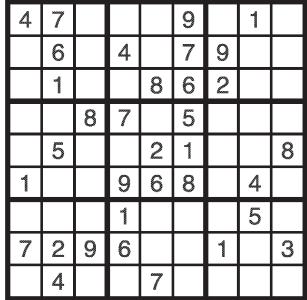


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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

European gypsy moth egg scraping contest aims to slow invasive species

by SUE TIFFIN Times Staff

In June 2018, someone participating in the Queen Elizabeth II Bioblitz took a photo of a European gypsy moth caterpillar on a tree in the Minden area, resulting in the only positive identification in Haliburton County of the invasive species to be posted on the EDDMapS Ontario Map run by the Invading Species Awareness Program.

The Invasive Species Centre, however, knows there have likely been many more sightings of the pest in the area that haven't been reported by citizens yet. The centre's Early Detection and Rapid Response Network European Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Scraping Contest hopes to change that, enticing community members to report sightings of the egg masses on their properties and remove them in exchange for an entry into a contest for Yeti merchandise and maple

"The European gypsy moth is native to Europe and is currently established in northeastern United States and eastern Canada," reads a press release from the Invasive Species Centre, based in Sault Ste. Marie. "This insect is a significant threat to Ontario trees, and has gained widespread attention over the past year for the heavy defoliation seen across the province. The caterpillars feed on crown foliage of a wide range of makes it a defoliating forest pest of concern."

This is the time of year, after June and prior to spring the following year, according to the Invasive Species Centre, to monitor and manage trees for European gypsy moth to help limit further infestation next year.

"We know that Eastern Ontario trees were heavily impacted this year by the pest, and there's evidence of moderate to severe defoliation from European gypsy moth in areas surrounding Kawartha Lakes and an increase in defoliation as you move east towards areas like Perth and Smiths Falls," said Lauren Bell, education and community outreach coordinator at the Invasive Species Centre.

"We're calling on people across Ontario to help reduce the impact of this destructive pest, right in their own backyards," reads the

The egg masses are tan-coloured and can be found on tree trunks, bark, or other hard surfaces, according to the release. They are about four centimetres long and contain 100 to 1,000 eggs.

Once eggs are spotted, they should be removed with a scraper like a butter knife or paint scraper to carefully remove the masses off tree trunks, branches and outdoor equipment. After removal, the masses should be disposed of in a bucket of dish soap and water mixture, left for 48 hours in the water before disposal. Community members should wear gloves and protective glasses while scraping eggs off of trees. To enter the contest, a photo should be taken of the eggs scraped, which can be submitted with an entry form to be automatically entered into a draw to win a prize. The more eggs scraped, the more entries into

'We use an application called the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System to track reports of invasive species in Canada, you can see based on the European Gypsy Moth page the current mapped distribution in Ontario, including reports in the Minden/ Kawartha Lakes area," said Bell. "These maps are not a summary of all infestations by any means, but are reports sent in from community members, and therefore the more people we have reporting their sightings of this invasive species, the better understanding we have at the current distribution."

An early bird draw took place Oct. 30, and a final draw takes place on Nov. 27 at 4 p.m. For further information visit invasivespeciescentre.ca or https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/take-action/edrr-network/ european-gypsy-moth-egg-scraping-contest/.













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The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is offering online training programs to their membership and the wider community that promote safe, healthy workplaces.

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and inclusion for workplaces, diversity and inclusion for volunteer organizations, Indigenous culture training, and unconscious bias in the workplace.

Chamber members get 25 per cent off the cost of the programs, which the chamber says are affordably priced. Participants receive a chamber-branded certificate upon completion of the course. Additional discounts for high volume employers may be available.

"The board recognized this as a need in our community, based on current events," Andrea Strano, president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce said.

Find out more at haliburtonchamber.com.

Staff

Minden Hills **Waste Services Survey**

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Arianna Hirstwood shares a cut and paste activity after learning about the solar system during homeschool. /Submitted



Michael Dillane is learning piano. "Something we have always wanted to learn but homeschool gave us time," said his mom, Robin. /Submitted



Kinsley Murdoch, enrolled in the TLDSB Learning@ Home program, is learning from Alicia Janssen-Thayer how to play guitar as an extra-curricular this year. /Submitted photo



Learning at Home

A concrete graph shows that "sparkly rocks" are the favourite by a landslide according to fellow TLDSB @ Home Learning students, and data collected through phone calls to Grandmas and Grandpas. /Submitted



Ella Hirstwood takes a moment, meditating in the driveway during a homeschooling day. /Submitted photo



Head of the class: Hailey Switzer learns online while her sister's duck, Puddles, oversees her activity. / Submitted

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6	5	4	3	2	1	7	9	8
1	3	7	9	6	8	5	4	2
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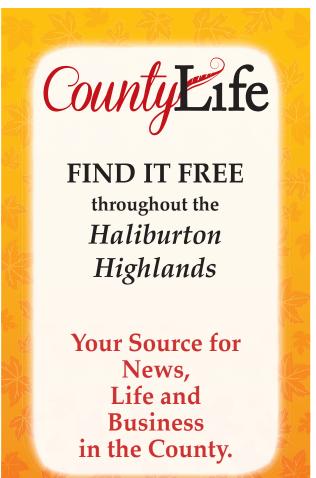
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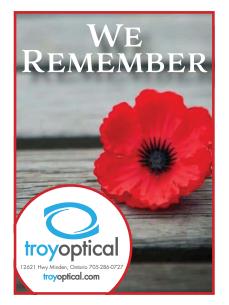


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In Loving Memory of

Arthur Verne Bernier

Verne passed away peacefully on October 29, 2020 at the Haliburton Hospital in his 95th year.

He was predeceased by his father Albert Bernier, mother Maude, (née Taylor) Bernier, his brother LeRoy and Aunt Beatrice Taylor.

He will be missed by his children Mark, Eric (Denise) and Lori (Alex). Verne was a proud Grandpa to Richard (Niki), James (Karen), Christine (Tyler), Jacqueline (Graeme), Genevieve (Scott), Benjamin (Ashley)

and Philip. He was a Great Grandfather to Natalie, Hailey and Isla. Verne is remembered by his former wife Norma, (née Haskins) Bernier.

Verne was born May 8, 1925 in Montreal and grew up in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. In 1941 he joined the Canadian Army, North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment and was soon shipped out to active duty overseas during WW II. He participated in the Liberation of Holland. After the war he returned to Canada and moved to Toronto joining Colgate Palmolive Canada in 1948, settling into the family home in Scarborough. He enjoyed a rewarding career spanning 42 years. Upon retirement he became a consultant for Colgate Palmolive's New York head office and travelled internationally to many interesting cities for the next 5 years.

Verne loved being at the cottage on Mountain Lake for over 53 years and eventually moved there to make it his home. He could be found out for an early morning canoe paddle, towing a water skier behind the boat, working on a repair project or on the deck at 4:00pm for cocktail hour.

There will be no service based on Verne's wishes.

If desired, a contribution to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Blackout

Ontario Hydro's big bucket helped ASES students plant trees on Earth Day. See page 3



On the run

Archie Stouffer students are off to the races after excellent showing at meet See page 12



HHSS action

We have coverage of Red Hawk football, rugby, and basketball.

See pages 14 to 16



Rabies clinic

Dr. Peter Bennett of the Minden Animal Hospital had his hands full. See pages 3

In Quotes

"I didn't tell anybody for a couple of days. I thought they'd think we were crazy. Bob Brown on his reaction after spotting a cougar at Big Bob Lake

Cougars seen in Highlands

Rumours about mountain lions are true

by JERRY GROZELLE

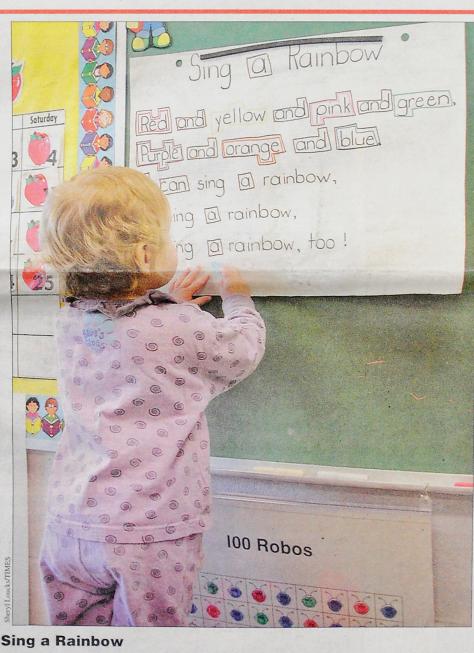
Times staff

If you've ever been out in the wilds of Haliburton County and seen a flash of what appeared to be a puma (also known as cougar

or mountain lion), your eyes may not have been tricking you.

Sightings of this elusive animal are rare, but several have been reported in and around Haliburton County, as recently as this sum-

Bob Brown and his friend Ron Sullivan, both cottagers on the north shore of Big Bob Lake, had a close encounter with a puma see CATS page 5



Little Jorja Hie learns a new song (Sing a Rainbow, made popular by Kermit the Frog) while visiting her sister's classroom at Archie Stouffer Elementary School's open house held last Thursday. For more pho-

Costs going up on Minden municipal building

by IZABELA JAROSZYNSKI

Major problems with water and soil have driven up the price of the Minden Hills municipal building expansion, council was told last week

Bob Romberg, the project manager for the site, told council that, although the project is progressing "quite satisfactorily," some unexpected issues have arisen.

During the excavation process, an underground stream was discovered. Water began spilling out from below the ground at about two to three gallons a minute, Romberg said, and the issue had to be dealt with immediately.

The site was "de-watered," he said. "Water had to be pumped

But the real expense came with changes to the design of the building. Because of the water level, the basement floor, which was originally to have been a concrete slab, had to be changed to a structural slab and the whole building raised six inches. This included an engineer's report and additional materials.

The water spillage also brought to light another issue of concern. There was a noticeable sheen [on the soil] in areas where they

see ODOUR page 2

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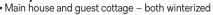
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retirement location

2-Bedroom, 1 bath home, COMPLETELY

Right in downtown Haliburton, great starter or



Industrial Park Road \$799,000

- 5000 Sq Ft building in Haliburton
- · Large, open space, concrete floor
- Private location, fenced & gated · Ideal for contractors or manufacturing





Industrial Park Rd \$1,200,000

- 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!



Wilberforce \$469,900

With a 2-story garage

Lake access across the road

• Totally renovated 3-bedroom, 2 bath home

Modern 3-bedroom, 2 bath home





WANTED; Your Listing

· Evaluations based on today's market

· Cottages, homes, land

Call or visit C21 Carnarvon







Ultimate privacy for residential use!







· Beautifully Treed with driveway already installed.





Haliburton Home \$429,000

- Newer 3-bedroom, 2 bath home with good access to town & across from the rail trail
- Nicely finished, open concept living space and fully finished lower level







(705) 489-9969



- 3.9 acre building lot, 555' of waterfront
- HST INCLUDED!

We are open for business! Our client's health remains our primary concern. Our REALTORS will be following certain protocols to ensure our clients safety. Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

Bushwolf Lake \$1,345,000

- Over 750 acres of wilderness to explore
- Over 9000 feet of waterfront on Bushwolf Lake
- Your only limit is your own imagination

Percy Lake \$680,000

Incredible point lot with big lake views Private location, driveway installed

PROUDLY PART OF THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY!

CENTURY 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. BROKERAGE

Haliburton 705-457-2128 | Minden 705-286-2138 | Carnarvon 705-489-9968 | Kennisis Lake 705-754-1932